

USSN: 09/560,170

Attorney Docket No.: 117-P-1345US01

Amendments to the Claims

A detailed list of all claims under examination is set out below. Please amend claims 20-27 and 39-51 as shown below in marked form:

1. (withdrawn): A coated substrate comprising a strippable intermediate coating atop the substrate, and a strip agent-permeable coating atop the intermediate coating, wherein the strip agent-permeable coating is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating.
2. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor.
3. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a resilient flooring material.
4. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 3, wherein the substrate comprises a vinyl or vinyl composite tile.
5. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a wall, ceiling, label, emblem, sign or vehicle.
6. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating comprises a metal-catalyzed acrylic finish.
7. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale, corresponding to at least partial strip with softened finish in all areas, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.
8. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a thickness of about 5 to about 38 micrometers.

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9. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprises a polymerized material.
10. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprised a one-part photopolymerizable material.
11. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprised a UV curable material.
12. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprises an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.
13. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the topcoat comprises an aromatic urethane.
14. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the topcoat comprises an aliphatic polyester urethane.
15. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat is not metal crosslinked.
16. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat has a strippability rating of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack on the topcoat and the onset of stripping, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.
17. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat has a thickness of about 5 to about 38 micrometers.
18. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating or topcoat comprise two or more different layers of materials.

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19. (withdrawn): A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor and the strip agent-permeable coating comprises a UV curable finish.

20. (currently amended): A strippable resilient flooring laminate finish renewal ~~system~~, article of manufacture comprising a strippable intermediate acrylic coating in a first container, a polymerizable waterborne urethane or acrylate topcoat in a second container and directions for applying the intermediate coating to resilient flooring and the topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the polymerized topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating when each is coated alone atop the resilient flooring, and wherein when the intermediate coating is coated atop the resilient flooring and dried or hardened and the topcoat is coated atop the intermediate coating and polymerized, the polymerized topcoat is sufficiently strip agent permeable so that the topcoat and intermediate coating can be at least partially stripped from the resilient flooring in 30 minutes without damaging the resilient flooring.

21. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, further comprising a strip agent.

22. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises a one-part photopolymerizable material.

23. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises a UV curable material.

24. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises an ~~acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane~~.

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25. (currently amended): A strippable laminate finish ~~kit~~, article of manufacture comprising a strippable intermediate acrylic coating, a polymerizable waterborne topcoat and directions for applying the intermediate coating to ~~a floor~~ resilient flooring and the topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the topcoat comprises an aromatic urethane, the polymerized topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating when each is coated alone atop the ~~floor~~ flooring, and wherein when the intermediate coating is coated atop the ~~floor~~ flooring and dried or hardened and the topcoat is coated atop the intermediate coating and polymerized, the polymerized topcoat is sufficiently strip agent permeable so that the topcoat and intermediate coating can be at least partially stripped from the ~~floor~~ flooring in 30 minutes without damaging the ~~floor~~ flooring.

26. (currently amended): A strippable laminate finish ~~kit~~, article of manufacture comprising a strippable intermediate acrylic coating, a polymerizable waterborne topcoat and directions for applying the intermediate coating to resilient flooring and the topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the topcoat comprises an aliphatic polyester urethane, the polymerized topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating when each is coated alone atop the resilient flooring, and wherein when the intermediate coating is coated atop the resilient flooring and dried or hardened and the topcoat is coated atop the intermediate coating and polymerized, the polymerized topcoat is sufficiently strip agent permeable so that the topcoat and intermediate coating can be at least partially stripped from the resilient flooring in 30 minutes without damaging the resilient flooring.

27. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein:

- a) the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale, corresponding to at least partial strip with softened finish in all areas, and
- b) the polymerized topcoat when coated alone atop a vinyl composite tile has a strippability rating of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack on the topcoat and the onset of stripping,

using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.

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28. (withdrawn): A strip agent concentrate containing a polar solvent that is denser than water, and a sufficiently low level of cosolvent or surfactant so that upon mixing with water a pseudo-stable aqueous dispersion forms which will phase-separate following application to a surface.
29. (withdrawn): A strip agent concentrate according to claim 28, wherein the polar solvent comprises a phenyl alcohol.
30. (withdrawn): A strip agent concentrate according to claim 29, wherein the polar solvent comprises benzyl alcohol.
31. (withdrawn): A method for applying a finish to a substrate, comprising:
- a) applying to the substrate a strippable intermediate coating;
 - b) allowing the intermediate coating to dry or harden; and
 - c) applying a strip agent-permeable topcoat to the intermediate coating,
- wherein the topcoat is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating.
32. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, wherein the topcoat is UV cured.
33. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, wherein the intermediate coating is applied in two or more coats.
34. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, wherein the topcoat is applied in two or more coats.
35. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 34, wherein each of said two or more coats is UV cured before application of any further coat.

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36. (withdrawn): A method for removing a finish from a substrate, comprising:
- a) applying a strip agent to a laminate finish comprising a strip agent-permeable coating atop a strippable intermediate coating atop a substrate, wherein the strip agent-permeable coating is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating;
 - b) allowing the strip agent to permeate through the topcoat to attack the intermediate layer; and
 - c) removing the intermediate layer and topcoat without removing substantial portions of the underlying substrate.
37. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 36, wherein permeation of the strip agent through the topcoat is enhanced by a mechanically roughening the topcoat prior to applying the strip agent.
38. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 36, wherein removal of the intermediate layer and topcoat occurs in less than 10 minutes after application of the strip agent.
39. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises an aliphatic urethane.
40. (currently amended): A strippable laminate finish ~~kit~~ article of manufacture, comprising a strippable intermediate acrylic coating, a polymerizable waterborne topcoat and directions for applying the intermediate coating to resilient flooring and the topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the topcoat comprises a polyester urethane, the polymerized topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating when each is coated alone atop the resilient flooring, and wherein when the intermediate coating is coated atop the resilient flooring and dried or hardened and the topcoat is coated atop the intermediate coating and polymerized, the polymerized topcoat is sufficiently strip agent permeable so that the topcoat and intermediate coating can be at least partially stripped from the resilient flooring in 30 minutes without damaging the resilient flooring.

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41. (currently amended): A strippable resilient flooring laminate finish renewal ~~system~~ article of manufacture, comprising a strippable intermediate acrylic coating in a first container, a polymerizable urethane or acrylate topcoat in a second container comprising water as a diluent, and directions for applying the intermediate coating to resilient flooring and the topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the polymerized topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating when each is coated alone atop the resilient flooring, and wherein when the intermediate coating is coated atop the resilient flooring and dried or hardened and the topcoat is coated atop the intermediate coating and polymerized, the polymerized topcoat is sufficiently strip agent permeable so that the topcoat and intermediate coating can be at least partially stripped from the resilient flooring in 30 minutes without damaging the resilient flooring.

42. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein the topcoat comprises a one-part photopolymerizable material.

43. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein the topcoat comprises a UV curable material.

44. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein the topcoat comprises an ~~acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane~~.

45. (currently amended): A strippable resilient flooring laminate finish renewal ~~system~~ article of manufacture comprising a strippable intermediate acrylic coating in a first container, a polymerizable topcoat in a second container comprising water as a diluent, and directions for applying the intermediate coating to resilient flooring and the topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the topcoat comprises an aliphatic urethane, the polymerized topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating when each is coated alone atop the resilient flooring, and wherein when the intermediate coating is coated atop the resilient flooring and dried or hardened and the topcoat is coated atop the intermediate coating and polymerized, the polymerized topcoat is sufficiently strip agent permeable so that the topcoat and intermediate coating can be at least partially stripped from the resilient flooring in 30 minutes without damaging the resilient flooring.

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46. (currently amended): A strippable resilient flooring laminate finish renewal ~~system~~ article of manufacture comprising a strippable intermediate acrylic coating in a first container, a polymerizable topcoat in a second container comprising water as a diluent, and directions for applying the intermediate coating to resilient flooring and the topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the topcoat comprises a polyester urethane, the polymerized topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating when each is coated alone atop the resilient flooring, and wherein when the intermediate coating is coated atop the resilient flooring and dried or hardened and the topcoat is coated atop the intermediate coating and polymerized, the polymerized topcoat is sufficiently strip agent permeable so that the topcoat and intermediate coating can be at least partially stripped from the resilient flooring in 30 minutes without damaging the resilient flooring.

47. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein the topcoat comprises less than about 47 wt. % solids.

48. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein the topcoat comprises less than about 40 wt. % solids.

49. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises about 15 to about 47 wt. % solids.

50. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises less than about 47 wt. % solids.

51. (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An article of manufacture according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises less than about 40 wt. % solids.